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DAGGER'S EDGE

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"The Greatest Brigade Combat Team Ever Formed"





DAGGER'S EDGE

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Dagger Vision

The Dagger Brigade Combat Team will be trained and ready, fully deployable, disciplined, confident, dedicated and serving selflessly with pride.

We are caring of one another and sensitive to the needs of our Soldiers, family members and DA civilians.

We communicate accurately across the chain of command and work together as a combined arms team of teams.

We are responsible stewards of our Nation's treasure.

We are professionals and ambassadors of our Nation and responsible and respected guests in the Schweinfurt Community, and wherever we find ourselves.

We are flexible, motivated and fully capable of executing any assigned tasks to standard regardless of the challenges.

Picture Credits

★ Staff Sgt. Mariano Gonzales from Brooklyn, NY assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, attached to 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division is on patrol in Adhamiyah, Iraq. The 1-26 Infantry is conducting Traffic Control Point checks in support of Operation Together Forward. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1(AW/SW/NAC)
★ Keith W. DeVinney) (Released)





DAGGER'S EDGE



Chaplain's Focus on Faith

Lean On Your Chaplain

Story by CH (Capt.) Virgil Thomas

*Sometimes in our lives
we all have pain, We all
have sorrow, But if we are
wise, We know that there's
always tomorrow, lean on
me, when you're not strong,
And I'll be your friend, I'll help
you carry on, For it won't be
long, 'Til I'm gonna need,*

*Somebody to lean on, So just call on me
brother, when you need a hand, We all need
somebody to lean on, I just might have a prob-
lem that you'd understand, We all need some-
body to lean on."* Bill Withers-"Lean on Me"

The Schweinfurt Family Life Chaplain provides numerous opportunities to demonstrate coaching and counseling skills. Anytime we teach someone new skills, from "parenting skills" to "anger management skills," we are coaching. Anytime a soldier or family member seeks our assistance or advice, we are counseling. Both are skills that can be learned through persistence and patience. If you have the sincere desire to develop and understand how to enhance your communication, child rearing, or marriage skills to improve your important relationships, then I'm the right person to help you.

If you need assistance in taking that first step understanding how to obtain these skills, you can see me or your unit chaplain who is here for you to lean on for help. Every one of us, if we would truly admit it, has needed or wanted help with personal issues in our lives at one time or another. Sometimes we were unwilling to admit that we needed help, and at other times were leaned on someone for help. As Chaplains, we are inviting you to "lean on us" to assist you in obtaining the skills you need to get you to where you want to be.

The rewards from improving your personal



The Chaplain Family Life Center is on the 3rd floor of the Abrams Center near Ledward Barracks. (US Army photo by CH(Maj.) David Mikkelsen, 2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div.)

skills to enhance your quality of life are many. These relationship skills create optimal family conditions that include:

- * Developing tools to communicate more effectively.
- * Enjoying memorable family experiences.
- * Learning practical planning techniques to create more opportunities for quality family time and having more energy to enjoy your kids and spouse.
- * Conducting fun cultural and team-building exercises to define your family's traditions, values and norms, and to strengthen your family's identity.
- * Applying powerful and proven tools to articulate your family's vision and goals, and outline a strategy to achieve them.

In your personal life these skills will help you understand yourself and family members more deeply. You can use these skills to resolve personal and family conflicts that may arise.

There are great programs in place to assist married Soldiers with the reunion process with spouse and family. "Strong Bonds" (marriage retreats) offers Soldiers and their spouses a way to address the issues they face upon returning home. Single Soldiers returning from deployments are offered the opportu-

(Chaplain Continued on page 9)





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**1-26 Infantry
Blue Spaders**

Apaches Change the Lead

Story by 1st Lt. Daniel Morkes

It is a hot, dry morning in the beginning of June and the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 1-26 Infantry "Blue Spaders" are standing in company mass at the position of attention. Across from them stand both their current and future Company Commanders. The Battalion Com-



The Soldiers of Alpha Company salute their current and future commanders. (US Army photo by 1st Lt. Daniel Morkes, 1st Bn, 26th Inf. Reg.)

mander, Lt. Col. Eric O. Schacht, stands between the company grade officers, ready to oversee the change of command ceremony of one of his Infantry Companies.

The signal is given and the next chapter in a time-honored tradition begins. The three officers walk as one across the smoldering asphalt towards the formation of "Apache" Soldiers and stop in front of current Company First Sergeant, Marc Hickey, of Buffalo, N.Y., and his Guidon Bearer, Spc. Roberto LeFurgy, of Oakdale, N.Y.

The Battalion Commander gives a verbal signal and 1st Sgt. Hickey turns towards LeFurgy. LeFurgy hands to Hickey the Alpha Company Guidon, the symbol of Apache pride and authority. After receiving the precious unit flag, Hickey slowly and deliberately hands off the Company's colors to the current Commander, Capt. Andrew Jasso, of Rio Valley, Texas. Jasso accepts the colors from his First Sergeant and then his senior NCO departs from the group to make way for the new Company First Sergeant, Jeff McKinney, of



1st Sgt. Marc Hickey prepares to hand off the Alpha Guidon to begin the change of command ceremony. (US Army photo by 1st Lt. Daniel Morkes, 1st Bn, 26th Inf. Reg.)

Garland, Texas.

Once 1st Sgt. McKinney takes his place within the group, Capt. Jasso continues the ritual and passes the guidon off to Lt. Col. Schacht, symbolizing his end of command of the Apaches. The Battalion Commander accepts the flag and passes it off to the incom-



Battalion guests listen attentively to Capt. Andrew Jasso's closing speech to his Company. (US Army photo by 1st Lt. Daniel Morkes, 1st Bn, 26th Inf. Reg.)

ing commander, Capt. Jess Greaves, of Franklin, N.Y. Greaves accepts the colors, symbolizing his acceptance as the new Apache commander. Finally, he passes the guidon back to the company First Sergeant,

(Blue Spaders Continued on page 9)





DAGGER'S EDGE



2-12 Cavalry Thunder Horse

Alpha Company finds Hidden Weapons

Story by Capt. Keith McCarty

The Squad Leader, Staff Sgt Michael Orosz, looks up from checking the thermometer on his watch and says, "115 degrees." The Soldiers standing around him just laugh. "A laugh is the only suitable response when it is this hot," says Orosz.

In recent days, the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, have been conducting dismounted patrols in the farmlands of Duwanim, located to the north of Al Shulla in Baghdad. The Soldiers search the local national homes and surrounding fields for any signs of caches that may have been moved out into these areas. The Baghdad Security Plan has placed a lot of attention on the densely populated neighborhoods in and around the capital, but leaves the rural areas largely unaffected. The Soldiers of Alpha Company are hedging their bets that the caches that had previously been kept in urban areas have recently been relocated to the surrounding farmlands. The search for these caches can be exhausting as there is no escape from the sun and the heat. But these Soldiers, trained in the deserts around Fort Bliss, Texas, possess the stamina to succeed.



Residents of these rural areas are not as used to seeing Coalition Forces as are the people living in the densely populated neighborhoods of Baghdad. (US Army photo by Capt. Keith McCarty, 2-12 Cav.)

The Local Iraqis north of Al Shulla are not as used to seeing Coalition Forces as the locals inside the urban Baghdad neighborhoods are, but there are signs that Coalition Forces have been in this area before. As the Soldiers approach one home, someone points out that the garden on the side of the house has been fenced in with concertina wire. When the patrol walks around to the front of the home, they discover a standard US Army cot in front of the house. The owners of the house have dealt with Coalition Forces before, and welcome the patrol into the home to escape from the sun and heat. While searching the home, Soldiers discover a tan five-gallon water can in the kitchen. The house has no air-conditioner, but the shade is a welcome respite from the sun. Continuing the patrol, the Soldiers encounter a dog that has discovered a very effective way to beat the heat. There is a depression that runs along side the



Soldiers from 3rd Plt, A/2-12 CAV, patrol along the northern edge of Shulla in order to identify any "Rat Lines" running north into the farmlands. (US Army photo by Capt. Keith McCarty, 2-12 Cav.)

(2-12 CAV Continued on page 9)





DAGGER'S EDGE



2-32 FA Proud Americans

Fixing Anytime, All The Time

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Gary Sarapa

The motto of the Maintenance Platoon of Golf Company, 610th BSB, which supports 2-32 Field Artillery is, "We fix anytime, all the time." It is a motto by which every Soldier in the platoon lives. They know that their way of supporting the war is ensuring that all of the equipment used by the "Proud Americans" is not only fully mission capable, but to high

operational standards as well. The platoon itself is a miniature maintenance company, capable of performing field level maintenance on every piece of equipment owned by 2-32 FA. It is comprised of an automotive section, ground support equipment (GSE) section, service and recovery (S&R) sec-

a week. When the call comes in that a broken vehicle is returning from a patrol, the parts, tools, and mechanics are all standing by, waiting for the vehicle, ready to pounce on it like a NASCAR pit crew. The section also provides a three-man team with a wrecker and contact truck each week at Joint Security Station Torch. The forward team repairs equipment utilizing minimum resources until it can be brought back to the Forward Operating Base. They also provide welding and lift support for JSS improvement, as well as maintenance and repair of the generators on site that provide the JSS with power.

With the hot temperatures of late, the GSE section has also stayed busy repairing and re-charging 14 vehicle air conditioners, earning the GSE section sergeant the nickname "Mr. Freeze"

from the Soldiers in the battalion. He is the only air conditioner mechanic by MOS in the platoon, but he has ensured all of his Soldiers are cross-trained to provide seamless support to the Proud Americans and keep them cool. They have recently started replacing all of the front and rear evaporators in our battle-hardened M1114 fleet, making a significant improvement in their cooling efficiency.

The S&R section, besides providing the recovery and lift capabilities for the battalion, has made its biggest impact on the battalion performing annual services on the battalion's

vehicles. Over the past month, they have completed services for ten vehicles, with an average turn-around time of only 24 hours each. This performance is impressive because, according to the Maintenance Allocation Chart, it should take them close to 37 hours each. This quick turn-around

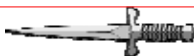
(2-32 FA Continued on page 13)



Soldiers from the Maintenance Platoon, G Company, 610th FSC 2-32 FA, take a break from their work in the motor pool to pose for a picture. (US Army photo by Capt. Brad Bandy, 2-32 Field Artillery)

tion, communications and electronics section, armament section, and a maintenance control section.

During the past month alone, the automotive section has put in over 200 man-hours, bringing most deadlined vehicles back to FMC status the same day. They work 24 hours a day, seven days





DAGGER'S EDGE



**1-325th AIR
Lets Go**

24 Iraqi Boys Rescued from Dar Elhanan Orphanage

Story by 1st Lt. Steven Taylor

Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces discovered an orphanage with 24 severely malnourished boys on June 10. While conducting a joint operation in the Fajr district of Baghdad, Coalition Forces found the naked boys in a darkened room without any windows. Many of the children were tied to their beds, yet laying on the floor. Their ages ranged from 3 to 15 years old, and were too weak to stand on their own two feet. However, the joint forces explored a locked room filled with ample clothing and an abundance of food. These crucial supplies rest only a short distance way from where the boys lay helpless. Three women, claiming to be the caretakers, and two men, the director and a guard, were at the orphanage when forces arrived.

Upon investigation of the circumstances it turns out that the boys were removed from the coed orphanage located in Atafiyah by order of the Min-



Iraqi Army, Coalition Forces, and civic leaders of the local neighborhood advisory council discuss a plan to ensure the boys are cared for as soldiers carry the boys to the ambulances. (U.S. Army Photo by Navy Lieutenant James Cook, 492nd Civil Affairs)

men. These men fled the building once Iraqi and Coalition Forces arrived and have not yet been detained.

Paratroopers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, and a 492nd Civil Affairs team arrived at the orphanage with medics to treat the malnourished boys. Members of the Fajr Neighborhood Advisory Council were notified and escorted to the orphanage to assist the boys.

"The council members were crying at the site of the starving boys," stated Navy Lieutenant James Cook, a 492nd Civil Affairs Officer.

The Iraqi Army responded by dispatching three ambulances to take the boys to the Iskan Hospital for care.

On June 11, Bravo Company followed up at the hospital to find them in better health and spirits. The council members made arrangements for the boys to temporarily stay at the female orphanage, hiring ten additional workers to care for the boys until they are able to move on to Karbala where they will live under the care of social services. The Prime Minister's Office directed the arrest of the individuals responsible for this tragedy. The Ministry of Health began an investigation immediately.

The local leaders, along with Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces, came together to fix this tragic situation and bring justice to those men responsible. The Neighborhood Advisory Council vowed to take action and ensure the boys were properly cared for.



Staff Sgt. Kyle Richey, of State College, Penn., cares for one of the twenty four starving boys in the back of an Iraqi Army ambulance. Civic leaders escorted the boys to the Iskan Hospital. (U.S. Army Photo by Navy Lieutenant James Cook, 492nd Civil Affairs)

istry of Health in May because they believed the boys and girls should not live together. The Ministry of Health moved them to an orphanage that allegedly doubled as a brothel operated by several





DAGGER'S EDGE



1-7 FA First Lightning

Over the past six months, TF Lightning has built a close relationship with the people who live area of operation (AO) Lightning. Daily interaction between the Soldiers and the local populace has created an environment void of the security concerns experienced in the rest of the city of Baghdad. The recent strengthening of security has everyone looking forward to long term improvements.

In conversation with TF Lightning Soldiers, the local leaders have identified education as the most important issue in their lives. Both Shias and Sunnis live in AO Lightning, and they agree that properly educating Iraq's youth will bring about lasting peace and stability. They have come to the realization that the hatred displayed through insurgency and



A resident of Radwaniyah, with his young daughter in tow, expresses his gratitude for TF Lightning's efforts. Capt. Mark Larson, commander of C/1-7 FA, and Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Waskosky, a platoon sergeant with A/2-136 CAB, speak with the pair through Iraqi interpreter George P. Burdell. (US Army photo by Capt. Matthew Angliss, 1st Bn., 7th Field Artillery)

TF Lightning Ensures a Brighter Future for Baghdad's Children

Story by Capt. Jason Latella

sectarian violence stems from, and is fueled by, ignorance. Their solution: improve the classrooms.

The Al Swaib Primary School in the rural town of Radwaniyah had inadequate facilities to provide for the more than 450 young children in the area. TF Lightning hired 40 local residents and provided \$125,250 for renovation for the school including a new roof, two additional classrooms, a new generator, new desks, a computer and various school supplies for the children.

Sadly, a month after construction began, the primary contractor passed away. But the local leaders refused to let his work die with him. They continued to press on until the project was complete.

The grand opening of the school was a joyous occasion for the local children, their parents and the members of TF Lightning. As the local sheik cut the ribbon strung across the school's entrance, the crowd was all smiles. For the children, it was the excitement of new classrooms, desks, notebooks and soccer balls; for the adults, it was the excitement of a brighter future for Baghdad's youth.

As the day wound down, the leaders of TF Lightning and the leaders of the local populace sat down over chai and pastries to discuss the way ahead. Each renewed their commitment to make Baghdad a better place to live, with the Al Swaib Primary School only the beginning.



Sheik Raad Obeid Al Shibli cuts a ribbon as TF 1-7 FA Commander Lt. Col. Michael W. Griffith looks on. The two leaders worked closely over the past several months to improve the lives of the local residents. (US Army photo by Capt. Matthew Angliss, 1st Bn., 7th Field Artillery)






DAGGER'S EDGE


(Chaplain Continued from page 3)

nity to attend Single Soldier Retreats in comfortable, relaxed settings.

Through the Family Life Center and your Unit Chaplain we invite you to "lean on us" in getting you the help you need in your spiritual and relationship journey. Our individual, couples, and family counseling is a supportive process to help families define and work through personal problems. I'd be happy if you contacted me, Chaplain Virgil Thomas, at 09721-96-6135. 


(Blue Spaders Continued from page 4)

signaling the end of the change of command ceremony. The First Sergeant accepts the guidon and gives it back to the guidon bearer. The officers in front of the formation turn as one and walk back across the well toasted asphalt.

Afterwards the former Commander, Capt. Jasso, makes his farewell address to the men he led in combat for ten months. It is difficult for him and Hickey to give up their unit, but they know that the Apaches of Task Force 1-26 Inf. are in the experienced, capable hands of a new Commander and First Sergeant. Afterwards the combat veteran men of Alpha Company and the gathered guests from the Blue Spader Battalion come to the position of attention and sing the Army Song and Big Red One songs in salute to their Army and their Division. The ceremony ends with Greaves taking position in front of the company. With a salute and the unit motto "Apaches lead the way" to the Battalion Commander, Alpha Company has changed the lead. One chapter of the unit's history has just ended, but another has just begun. Army Strong! 

(2-12 CAV Continued from page 5)

road upon which the Coalition Forces are walking. A water main is buried under that depression. The plastic main was broken at one point, and allowed water to flow in steadily, forming quite a pool. It is from that pool that the dog sounds the standard alert for the approaching patrol. The Soldiers cannot determine if the pool was fresh water or sewage, but it does not seem to matter to the dog. He continues to lie in the pool, water up to his neck, and watches as the patrol passes. He is just happy to be out of the heat.

As the patrol nears its end, the Soldiers add up the hours in their heads. In all, they have been walking for six hours throughout the hottest part of the day. At the last house on the patrol, a cache of unauthorized weapons were found. Bolt action and semi-automatic rifles were rolled up in rugs and carpets and a 9mm Uzi was found in a basket of mushrooms. The weapons are collected and the responsible parties are detained. As the patrol from Alpha Company returns to base, smiles abound; the Soldiers are happy to be back. The long patrol has yielded results. The immediate reward is the sense of accomplishment for a job well done. But the reward that every Soldier really looks forward to is the feeling of cool air in the Company Command Post while processing the detainees. 



Staff Sgt. Lawson and Pfc. Hawkins, both from 1st Plt, A/2-12 CAV, stop and inspect a van leaving the rural area of Duwanim. (US Army photo by Capt. Keith McCarty, 2-12 Cav.)





DAGGER'S EDGE

The March

Story by Capt. Angel Winstanley



C 101 MI Cobras

May 27 started much earlier than a typical day in Baghdad for some of the Soldiers from C Company, 101st Military Intelligence. Staff Sgt. Shaun Kuhn made his way to the Command Post at around 0315 to meet up with Capt. Angel Winstanley and Sgt. Aric Coppola for the morning's Dancon March hosted by the Multi-National Force Danish Contingent. Winstanley, Kuhn and Coppola were getting set to compete in the 20 kilometer Dancon March. They prepared themselves, filling their camel backs with water and ensuring they had enough snacks for the long haul. As the three showed up at the starting point in the pre-dawn morning, an enormous crowd had already amassed anxiously awaiting for the March to begin. The parking took a little extra time, but every minute it took to start the March was worth it. The energy the Soldiers had who were present that morning was enervating.

As they started the March, Winstanley, Kuhn and Coppola were crowded together amongst their 2,000 fellow entrants. The



Staff Sgt. Shaun Kuhn from C Company, 101st Military Intelligence, relaxes after he finished the Dacon March. (US Army photo by Sgt. Aric Coppola, C Co. 101st MI)

beginning was achingly slow because the turn out for the March was so large and the course was narrow. As the marchers moved down the first segment of the course, the crowd began to thin out and the competitors quickened their pace. At the first water point, the cold water felt refreshing to them all as they drank and continued forward. Winstanley's water bottle had holes in it, so she took advantage of the situation and used it to help cool down Kuhn by spraying it on him. The sun began to raise about a third of the way into the March, and with its climb in the sky – the heat of the day followed. The looks on the individual's faces became a soft pink and some eventually turned bright red, sweat began to drop from the angles of their jaws. The heat increased, but the Soldiers attitudes remained high and inspiring. The spirits lifted with every step the individuals took as they closed the gap to the finish line.

Near the finish line the three C Company Soldiers began to separate from one another. They tried not to slow each other down. Near the end, the crowd became very thin as many began to finish, while others began to slow down. Coppola finished barely in front of Winstanley, who was just ahead of Kuhn. All finished within minutes of

(C 101 MI Continued on page 13)



Sgt. Aric Coppola from C Company, 101st Military Intelligence, after awarded his certificate for completion of the Dacon March. (US Army photo by Capt. Angel Winstanley, C Co. 101st MI.)





DAGGER'S EDGE



9th Engineers First to Cross

Specialty Shop- 'Some Assembly Required'

Story by Spc. Ian Harris

What do three machinists, two generator mechanics, one welder, and one NBC equipment repair specialist all have in common? These are the Soldiers that make up Task Force Gila's Specialty Shop, a section of HHC, 9th Engineer's Maintenance Platoon that specializes in projects where the label, "some assembly required," is written in bold print. Sgt. Richard Andrew Van Dreese Jr., the NCOIC of Specialty Shop, oversees his team of seven Soldiers and applies their different skills and talents to the vast array of projects they encounter.

"We are the Monster Garage of Baghdad," declares Spc. Todd Wilson, a generator mechanic assigned to Specialty Shop.

To date the team has worked on numerous projects that have improved force protection and enhanced the capabilities of the units. Some projects include modifying RPG cages to fit on RG-31's and Buffalo's, installing pope glass and sniper screens for all of the Task



Pvt. Joshua James Tucker of HHC, Task Force Gila welds the frame of a sniper screen at a new JSS. (US Army photo by Spc. Todd Christopher Wilson, HHC, 9th Engineer Bn.)

Force's HMMWVs, and fabricating mounting platforms for radios, flood lights, rhino's and the Trimax fire suppression systems. Their most recent project was to install ½ inch thick steel plate armor on three new RG-31's. The steel plates cover air tanks and add extra armor to an area of the RG-31 that was previously considered vulnerable.

With the creation of new Joint Security Stations and Combat Outposts, the team has been called upon to use their expertise outside the wire as well. Members of the specialty shop have gone on over ten missions with Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, to build sniper screens at these new locations. The metal frame for the screens must be welded together on site and lifted on top of the outer cement barriers. With Hesco bastions attached to the frame, the sniper screen adds another 5 feet to the outer wall's height and obscures the view of any would-be sniper.

The hours they work vary from day to

(9th Engineers Continued on page 14)



Spc. Todd Christopher Wilson and Spc. Timothy Alan Woolbright of HHC, 9th Engineer Battalion, mount a ½ inch thick plate of steel armor on A Co's newest RG-31. (US Army photo by Spc. Ian M. Harris of HHC, 9th Engineer Bn.)





DAGGER'S EDGE



1-5 Cavalry Knights

Knowledgeable Advisor Adds to the Fight at TF 1-5 CAV


Story by Sgt. Jack Androski

As the great military tactician Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "an army moves on its stomach." That statement is no longer true due to the modern application of U.S. Army logistics however the ability to know the enemy and target the enemy has always been and continues to be the major priority of the U. S. Army intelligence sections.

Forecasting an enemy's actions is as old as warfare, and has become more evident as the war in Iraq continues. The rise of asymmetrical warfare in Iraq has meant that the U.S. Army has had to look for new techniques, tactics and procedures for greater intelligence forecasting on enemy actions. Asymmetrical warfare has brought a renewed focus on bringing knowledgeable advisors into the fight against al-Qaeda and other groups looking to destabilize Iraq.

That is why, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment (TF 1-5 CAV), in a need to push greater intelligence assets into the Iraq fight, has re-

ceived a specialized intelligence advisor who has been a key player in the targeting process for the Black Knights. Mr. Jeffrey Evans, a contractor with the civilian organization Military Professional Resources Incorporated (MPRI), works directly with the Task Force Intelligence section and helps to create, package and execute intelligence targets throughout 1-5 CAV's area of operations. As a member of MPRI, Mr. Evans has brought almost twenty years of law enforcement expertise to bear on TF 1-5 CAV's ability to pattern enemy concentrations for precise targeting operations during recent Arrowhead strike 9 clearing maneuvers.

In a move to further develop the TF 1-5 CAV's asymmetrical fight, Mr. Evans has worked to incorporate greater intelligence collection standards into daily patrols, which has vastly improved evidence processing procedures. This ability to see the battlefield from an asymmetrical standpoint has allowed TF 1-5 CAV to personally find 47 items for future exploitation that they would not have been able to develop without the assistance of Mr. Evans. The acquisition of such a large number is contributed to Mr. Evans' ability to streamline traditional intelligence collection abilities. Mr. Evans' insight and professionalism has vastly improved TF 1-5 CAV's ability to counter the enemy in the asymmetrical battlefield and has shown that U.S. Army's move to incorporate knowledgeable advisors have been hugely successful for the asymmetrical war in Iraq. 



Mr. Jeffrey Evans a former Special Agent with the Georgia State bureau of Investigations at his targeting desk at FOB Liberty, Iraq. Mr. Evans has greatly improved the targeting mechanisms for 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Jack Androski, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment)





DAGGER'S EDGE


A New Spin on Tradition

Story by Sgt. Lance Wall



**2nd BCT
Dagger
Brigade**

At the Dagger Inn Dining Facility, Command Sgt. Maj. John Fortune, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in celebration of the Army's Birthday, held the tradition of being the most senior enlisted to cut the cake with


the newest enlisted from Europe, Pvt. Alyssa Rodriguez, and from the United States, Pfc. Rebecca Goodman. As tradition would have it, the senior enlisted and the newest enlisted would be the cake cutters, but since the Dagger Brigade is working with both US and Europe stationed units, the decision was made to have a representative from each new enlisted group, making the personnel cutting the Army's Birthday cake a total of three. (US Army photo by Sgt. Lance Wall, Public Affairs, 2nd BCT, 1st ID) 




(2-32 FA Continued from page 6)

allows a vehicle to get back in the fight with the assurance that it is in the same shape as when it rolled off the showroom floor. A key part of the S&R section are the welders who have fabricated anything the battalion has asked for from warning light and pope glass brackets to crew-served weapons stands at the JSS.

Besides the vehicle services, there is also the requirement to maintain night vision devices, weapons, and communications equipment and this is where the C&E and Armament shops jump in to do their part. The C&E section inspected, purged, and repaired over 40 NVG during platoon services and the armament shop inspected, gauged and repaired over 60 individual and crew-served weapons. In their "spare time," the C&E shop installed MP3 players into our vehicles' public address systems so the platoons can transmit messages during their patrols.

The speedy repairs accomplished by all of the sections in the Maintenance Platoon could not be accomplished without the parts provided by the Maintenance Control Section. The parts specialists are constantly on the road, requesting and picking up parts from every warehouse on every FOB on the entire Victory Base Complex. They have already logged hundreds of miles without even leaving the wire. 

(C 101 MI Continued from page 10)

one another and were filled instantly with a sense of accomplishment. The Dancon March was not about the length or the award presented, but the camaraderie of the individuals who accompanied each other on the journey. 





1-18 Infantry Vanguards

Vanguard Soldiers Adjust to COP Living


Story by Capt. Phil Hensel

Living at a Combat Outpost (COP) can pose many challenges. The austere conditions decrease the standard of living and can pose risks to the health of Soldiers from unclean and unhygienic conditions. Making a COP livable takes a lot of work at all levels; from procurement procedures at Company and Battalion levels, to contracted work through Iraqi local nationals. However, one of the biggest factors that make a COP livable is the hard work of the Soldiers living at the COP. The Soldiers of the Vanguard companies have put in the hard work at their

COPs to considerably improve the conditions. It was not always easy to work on COP improvements after coming off of a 12 hour patrol, but the Vanguard Soldiers demonstrated discipline and hard work to make their COPs a sanitary, clean, and more comfortable place to live by cleaning standing sewage from outside of their buildings and in their motorpools. They also cleaned and improved the buildings that were occupied, and fixed the electrical systems to provide outlet power. These improvements, and many others, have made Vanguard COPs locations fit for US Soldiers to live. Currently all Vanguard COPs have air conditioning (certainly a necessity during an Iraqi summer) and some have facilities for hot food to be prepared among other amenities.

Maintaining Combat Outposts also require additional work beyond making them habitable homes for US Soldiers. The TF 1-18 IN Support Platoon "Road Warriors" have been running daily Logistics Patrols to deliver food, fuel and other necessary supplies to the Soldiers at the COPs. The Road Warriors have a tough but necessary job keeping the Vanguards properly supplied so they can complete their mission. The occupation of multiple COPs has significantly increased the operational tempo and risk for the Soldiers of Road Warriors, but they have overcome all challenges to accomplish their essential mission in keeping the Vanguard battalion well supplied.

Soldiers living at Combat Outposts also have to put in long hours on towers and machine gun positions pulling force protections. It can be a monotonous job, but it is necessary given the threat of attack. The vigilance and attention to detail of the guards allow Soldiers living on the COPs to rest and refit between missions and patrols.

Building and moving into Combat Outposts have presented a series of challenges to the Vanguards. From making the COPs livable and secure locations to maintaining them through logistic patrols and securing them through constant guards the Vanguards have shown the discipline and professionalism that allow them to accomplish any mission. 

(9th Engineers Continued from page 11)

day, depending on the project at hand. If one of the companies needs armor on a vehicle then the team works until it is finished, sometimes late into the night. To them, the job is rewarding enough that the late hours don't bother them.

Spc. Timothy Alan Woolbright summed it up for the whole shop when he said, "We are proud of what we do, our work protects Soldiers."

When they do find spare time they switch gears from improving force protection to improving morale. The Specialty Shop recently built the "Gila Grill", which is used at Task Force BBQ's or by Gila Soldiers who want to have a cook-out and relax. 



DAGGER'S EDGE



**299th FSB
Lifeline**


510th Sapper Company Builds 299th Brigade Medical Supply Warehouse

Story by Capt. Aimee Ruscio

The 510th Sapper Company from Ft Hood, Texas, poured the foundation for a brigade medical supply warehouse for 299th Forward Support Battalion on June 3. Once complete, the warehouse will house medical supply operations for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. In charge of the project is 2nd Lt. Timothy Boucher and Sgt. 1st Class Sidney Karneke, both from the 510th Sapper Company.

Capt. Daniel O'Neill, the 299th FSB Brigade Medical Supply Officer, and 2nd Lt.

Robert Schwarz, chemical officer for the 1169th Engineers, began planning the warehouse after meeting in September of 2006. O'Neill needed a warehouse and Schwarz's unit had the capabilities to build one.

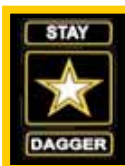
The Engineer design team conducted the initial site survey in December, and finalized plans for the structure in February. Throughout April, the 510th worked to level the ground overcoming challenges such as unmarked power lines, bad weather, and even unexploded ordnance. With the concrete pad poured, the final step is building the actual facility which is to be completed by the 1st week in July. 



Soldiers inspecting the prepared site. (US Army photo by Capt. Daniel O'Neill, 299th FSB)



The BMSO warehouse's concrete pad. (US Army photo by Capt. Daniel O'Neill, 299th FSB)

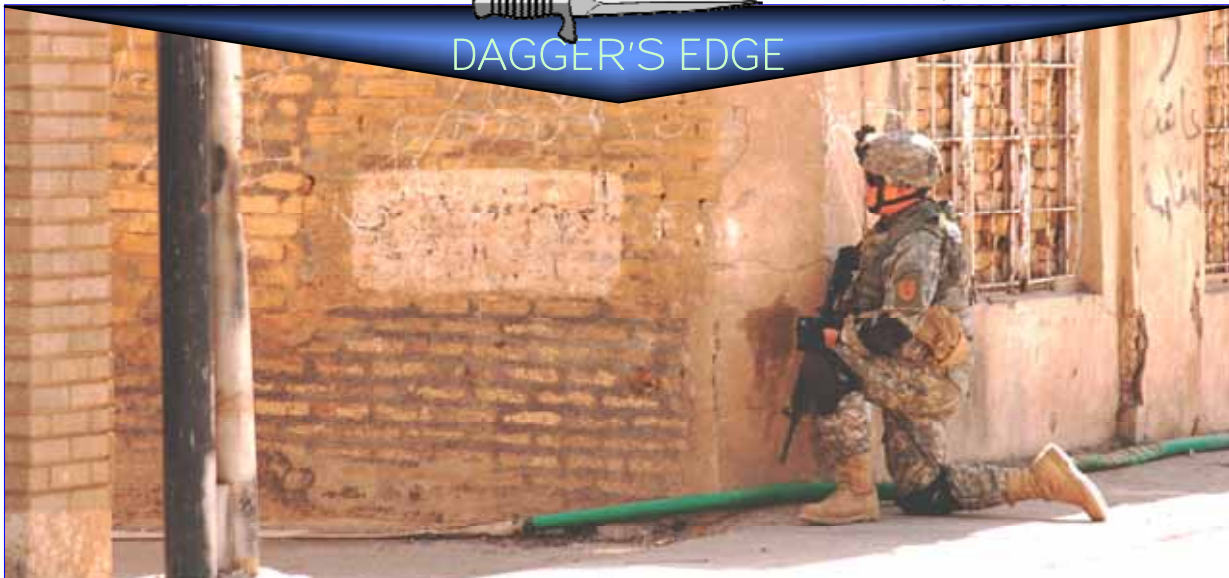


**STAY DAGGER STAY ARMY
ARMY STRONG**





DAGGER'S EDGE



U.S. Army Pfc. Sean Cousino assigned to 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, assigned to 506 Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT), assumes a defensive position on a street corner in east Baghdad, Iraq (U.S. Navy photo by MC1(AW/SW/NAC) Keith W. DeVinney) (Released)

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